

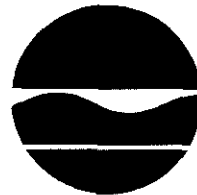
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**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**  
**Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources**  
**Wildlife Pathology Unit**  
108 Game Farm Road, Delmar, NY 12054



Erin Crotty  
Commissioner

February 25, 2002

Dr. Robert DiCandido  
Urban Park Rangers  
1234 5th Avenue  
New York, New York 10029

RE: Eastern Screech Owl (02-03-25)

Dear Dr. DiCandido:

The following is a summary of history and findings for this case.

**History:** This eastern screech owl was found dead on January 21, 2002 on the east side of Central Park at 72<sup>nd</sup> Street. The bird's carcass was submitted by E.J. McAdams of the Urban Park Rangers after the bird was found dead by John Heiser of the Central Park Conservancy. The backpack transmitter and the bird's USFWS Band (right leg) 0975-15507 were removed prior to shipment. The owl was received by the Wildlife Pathology Unit on January 23, 2002.

**Findings:** An adult, female, gray phase, eastern screech owl with a gross weight of 195 grams. The bird was in good flesh and had abundant fat. No fractures were found. A large hemorrhage was present over the ventrocaudal ventriculus in the fatty tissue between the ventriculus and the abdominal wall, hemorrhage was also present in and around the developing ova, plus the right lung. No subcutaneous hemorrhages were seen.

A trace of blood was present in the heart. The brain, spleen, and kidneys were pale.

The ova were enlarging with the largest being 17.2 mm (about .68 inches in diameter). The oviduct was enlarged and thickened for egg laying and a brood patch seemed to be developing.

The ventriculus contained several small balls of small mammal hair.

The larger developing ova and oviduct were fixed in 10% formalin. Half the brain, and a piece of liver, two ova, and the hair from the ventriculus were taken for toxicant analyses. Half the brain, and pieces of kidney, heart, spleen were taken for virology.

A presumptive diagnosis of death due to hemorrhaging caused by an anticoagulant rodenticide was made.

An anticoagulant screen was ordered on the liver and gizzard hair sample.

**Toxicology** (See attached laboratory report(s) from the Illinois Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Animal Disease Laboratory, Centralia, Illinois): The liver contained .91 ppm of the anticoagulant rodenticide Brodifacoum. The hair sample from the alimentary canal was negative for detectable levels of the anticoagulant.

TSB recd  
3/15/2002


Diagnosis: Anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning with Brodifacoum.

Comments: Analyses for lead, mercury, zinc, and cadmium are underway and should be completed by the end of March.

The testing for West Nile virus will be completed in the near future.

It is especially interesting that this owl appeared ready to start laying eggs at the end of January. It has been a very mild winter, but I suspect that the artificial lighting in the park and surrounding area may be influencing egg development. Broods of screech owls may turn up earlier in the year than one would expect.

Sincerely,

  
Ward B. Stone  
Wildlife Pathologist

Attachment(s)

WBS:rd

cc: J. Mastrota (USEPA)  
B. Rattner (Patuxent)  
J. Pane  
L. Skinner  
Toxicant Case Binder  
NYC Cases Binder  
HIN

Diagnostic findings may not be used for publication without the pathologist's knowledge and consent.



RECEIVED  
FILE

GEORGE H. RYAN, GOVERNOR  
JOE HAMPTON, DIRECTOR

Bureau of Animal Disease Laboratory

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FAX: 618-532-1195

ANIMAL DISEASE LABORATORY  
9732 SHATTUC ROAD  
CENTRALIA, ILLINOIS 62801

TOXICOLOGY DEPARTMENT REPORT

VETERINARIAN

OWNER

NEW YORK WILDLIFE  
108 GAME FARM RD  
DELMAR

NY 12054

NEW YORK WILDLIFE 02-03-25

ACCESSION

NUMBER:

2002008758

DATE

REPORTED: 02/05/2002

DATE

RECEIVED: 01/28/2002

SPECIMEN

SPECIES:

RECEIVED: 02-03-25 EASTERN SCREECH OWL LIVER

TEST

REQUESTED: ANTICOAGULANT/RODENTICIDE SCREEN

RESULTS:

ANTICOAGULANTS

BRODIFACOUM - .91 ppm

ALL OTHER ANTICOAGULANTS - NONE DETECTED

THE FOLLOWING TOXINS ARE INCLUDED IN THE ANTICOAGULANT SCREEN

Fumarin  
Racumin  
Warfarin  
Coumachlor  
Difenacoum  
Brodifacoum  
Diphacinone  
Pindone

Valone  
Chlorophacinone  
Bromadiolone  
4-OH Warfarin  
6-OH Warfarin  
7-OH Warfarin  
8-OH Warfarin  
Difethialone

CHEMIST

APPROVED

LABORATORY  
SUPERVISOR

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]* -RC



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TOXICOLOGY DEPARTMENT REPORT

VETERINARIAN

OWNER

NEW YORK WILDLIFE  
108 GAME FARM RD  
DELMAR

NY 12054

NEW YORK WILDLIFE 02-03-25

ACCESSION  
NUMBER:

2002008759

DATE

REPORTED: 02/05/2002

DATE

RECEIVED: 01/28/2002

SPECIMEN

SPECIES:

RECEIVED: 02-03-25 EASTERN SCREECH OWL LIVER

TEST

REQUESTED: ANTICOAGULANT/RODENTIIDE SCREEN

RESULTS:

*Hein*

ANTICOAGULANTS - NONE DETECTED

THE FOLLOWING TOXINS ARE INCLUDED IN THE ANTICOAGULANT SCREEN

Fumarin  
Racumin  
Warfarin  
Coumachlor  
Difenacoum  
Brodifacoum  
Diphacinone  
Pindone

Valone  
Chlorophacinone  
Bromadiolone  
4-OH Warfarin  
6-OH Warfarin  
7-OH Warfarin  
8-OH Warfarin  
Difethialone

CHEMIST

APPROVED

LABORATORY  
SUPERVISOR

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*Steve Kasten-Re* 4



**Illinois**  
Department of  
**Agriculture**

GEORGE H. RYAN, GOVERNOR  
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TOXICOLOGY DEPARTMENT REPORT

VETERINARIAN

OWNER

NEW YORK WILDLIFE  
108 GAME FARM RD  
DELMAR

NY 12054

NEW YORK WILDLIFE 02-03-25

ACCESSION  
NUMBER:

2002008759

DATE

REPORTED: 02/05/2002

DATE

RECEIVED: 01/28/2002

SPECIMEN

SPECIES:

RECEIVED: 02-03-25 EASTERN SCREECH OWL HAIR FROM VENTRICULUS

TEST

REQUESTED: ANTICOAGULANT/RODENTIIDE SCREEN

RESULTS:

ANTICOAGULANTS - NONE DETECTED

THE FOLLOWING TOXINS ARE INCLUDED IN THE ANTICOAGULANT SCREEN

Fumarin	Valone
Racumin	Chlorophacinone
Warfarin	Bromadiolone
Coumachlor	4-OH Warfarin
Difenacoum	6-OH Warfarin
Brodifacoum	7-OH Warfarin
Diphacinone	8-OH Warfarin
Pindone	Difethialone

SUPPLEMENTAL: 2/7/02 (CORRECTED COPY)

SAMPLE FIRST REPORTED AS LIVER SHOULD HAVE BEEN HAIR FROM VENTRICULUS.  
SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE.

CHEMIST

APPROVED

LABORATORY  
SUPERVISOR

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*